

Aspen Police Department

INCIDENT REPORT

Pitkin County Sheriff's Department

CASE NUMBER 75-990

CASE NUMBER

CASE HEADING KIDNAPPING - ATTEMPTED RAPE

REPORTING OFFICER D. Girms DS/1

DATE & TIME OF INCIDENT 21 April 1975

DATE & TIME OF REPORT 22 July 1975

PLACE OF INCIDENT State of Colorado

WITNESSES:

See body of report.

VICTIM:

Mary Elaine CRAWFORD 4/30/55 Age 19 years
Place of Birth: Newton, Mass
Mothers Address: 1384 Falmouth, Centerville, Mass.
Father: Deceased
SS #: [REDACTED]
Phy. Desc.: 5'3", 110#, Shoulder length blond hair
Blue Eyes, Pierced Ears. X
Temp. Add: The Ann TOBIN Residence - described as
the first house after Cemetery on Cemetery Lane on
the right.
Phone: 925-4682

NARRATIVE:

At approximately 10:00 AM on 27 April 1975 (Tuesday) Mary Elaine CRAWFORD who is nineteen years old came to the Police Department and made contact with me.

This took place only after Officer Ann SMITH-JOHANSEN had encouraged her to do so after hearing the following story.

Miss CRAWFORD related that on 21 April 1975 in the morning hours, she was hitchhiking from Denver to Vail, Colorado on I-70 which connects the two and at that time she was walking down the entrance ramp to I-70 near the outskirts of Denver. She further explained that she had not actually begun soliciting a ride yet, when she saw a car described as a 67 or 68 white Ford Falcon Station Wagon with CO plates backing toward her on I-70. In the car she observed two caucasian males.

She described the two males as follows:

SUSPECT #1:

Approximately twenty-four years of age, 6', 170# with dark blond straight hair, conservatively cut and a thin blond mustache. She further described the subject as having a left eye that was misshapen specifically the eye was tilted higher than it should have been to match the other eye. Suspect #1 is further described as wearing a dark colored, light weight jacket, levis, combat type workboots.

SUSPECT #2:

C/M Approximately forty-five years of age, 5'10" 160#, medium build. Light colored grey hair, clean shaven, wrinkled face, wearing a light button-down collar type shirt with beige khaki pants and workboots.

At this time they offered her a ride and she accepted and got into the front seat of the car with the two caucasian males. At this time she was on the passenger door side. They proceeded west on I-70.

The victim Miss. CRAWFORD indicated that during subsequent conversations that both males indicated to her that they were both going to Boulder to look for "work" and that she advised them that they could let her out as soon as they decided to turn off I-70 as she was going to Vail. At this time the older of the two men was driving and he indicated that they could just as easily take her to Vail, at which time they proceeded on I-70 in the direction of Vail.

Prior to leaving Denver the victim indicates that both men were drinking beer out of cans and that at one point stopped and bought beer and wine at a location described as two or three exits past the Boulder exit at a gas station and liquor store. At this time the victim was positioned in the center of the front seat with both caucasian males on either side of her with the older male driving. During subsequent conversations she indicated that the younger male was referred to by the older male as "Skip" or "Chip" and that both subjects indicated to Miss. CRAWFORD that they were divorced from their wives and had recently come from Washington (within the last ninety days). Miss. CRAWFORD indicated that at that time they headed west on I-70 into the mountains and that after they had been in the mountains for a short period of time, the younger and the older man alike indicated to her simultaneously that they wanted to stop and get something to eat, at which time she indicated that she wanted to press on to Vail and that they could drop her off as they turned off I-70. At this time they said "no" that they would not make a girl walk. Miss CRAWFORD indicates that at this time that they were at the Winter Park turn off on I-70 and that at this point she was getting nervous about the situation and insisted on getting out of the car and at this time the older man said "well we're not going to let you out" and at that time they turned off on the Winter Park turn off and headed in the direction of Winter Park. The victim indicated at this time "I was pretty scared".

The victim indicated further that over a period of the next fifty or sixty miles, that on several occasions the older subject who was driving the car would stop the vehicle and step out of it in a rural area in order to relieve himself beside the road and at these times the younger subject would grab the victim's arms and restrain her and prevent her from leaving the car. She further indicates that when the younger man left the car, the older one would hold her arms in order to prevent her from leaving the car also.

She indicated that during this time the older man seemed to be taking the initiative while the younger man was going along with the idea and that several occasions during the ride between I-70 and Winter Park. The older subject said "we're just going to fuck you a little bit" and that the younger subject said "we're not going to hurt you so just get used to the idea". The victim further indicated that both the driver and the younger man got out of the car approximately two times in rural areas and urinate beside the road while the other male in the car restrained Miss. CRAWFORD from getting out of the car. The victim indicated that they arrived near

a "Best Western" motel in Winter Park and that at that time, while they were still some distance from the motel, they stopped beside the road and at approximately that same time were still using the phrase "we're just going to fuck you a little bit". At this time, she saw an opportunity to dive into the back seat, in an attempt to escape, and at this time did dive into the back seat, grabbing her backpack and attempting to get out of the right rear door of the vehicle. She did succeed in getting the door open, and getting partially out of the car, when the older man grabbed her duffle bag, and she at that time had a "short tug of war" with the older man, afterwhich she succeeded in breaking his grasp and running toward a driveway to the motel, located on the right side of the road.

She indicated that she ran as fast as she could to the motel and didn't look back, and when she got to the front door of the motel, did turn around and look back, and noted that the car was speeding off in the direction from which they had come.

During a subsequent interview with the victim, she was able to recall the subjects had indicated to her that they had at one point in the recent past finished a job at "Albertson's" store in Colorado Springs and that there they had worked with formica contractors. She further indicated that in back seat of the vehicle in which she had been accosted, were several portions of what appeared to be formica panelling and a large gallon type cans of what appeared to be glue.

With the assistance of Ann Oakes, I was put in contact with one William HOGANSON, who is employed as General Supervisor or a similar capacity with the Grace Construction Company out of Denver. He indicated to me by telephone that he was in charge of the building and remodeling of the interior of "the New Albertson's Department Store" in Denver. At this time, an interview with Mr. Hoganson he indicated that a particular person was responsible for the formica panelling in the Albertson's in Denver, and I checked that person and found that that was impossible for him to have been a suspect in this crime, because of physical description. At that time, I recontacted Mr. Hoganson and asked him who his superintendant in charge of the job was and he indicated that it was a person by the name of Ernie BRADSHAW, who resides at 150 Grace Place, Denver, and who's date of birth is 2-7-20, and who's home phone number is 427-0349.

I made contact with Mr. Bradshaw and he indicated that the panelling on his construction site had been installed by a one David HERBEL, who's physical description generally fit that of the old man, however, further investigation cleared Mr. Herbel and later I found myself recontacting Mr Bradshaw again, and determining that Mr. Herbel had installed Marlite panelling, and not formica. After recontacting Mr. Bradshaw, he recalled that they had had some formica panelling installed, and he further remembered that it was a father and son team who had installed it. He described the father as follows:

45 years old, 185 lbs., 5-10, with light colored hair, clean shaven, and a round face. He further indicated that he knew this person had a nickname of "Rudie". He incated to me at that time that he had hired Rudy and his son through Topp's Unlimited, Inc. which is a business located at 4200 Kearney St. in Denver, phone number 399-2610 and who's general manager is Galen MYERS. He further recalled that son's name was "Skip" and described him as being 6-0, 200 lbs., 20 - 25 years old, short hair, blond, with a small moustache. He further independantly recalled that Skip had "rather odd looking eyes". He could not recall a vehicle.

At this time, I made contact with Galen Myers at the above described address, and he indicated that Rudie was Rudolph CHALLANGER, who ran Challanger Insulation Company out of Boulder. He futher indicated that Rudy CHALLANGER was possibly forty-five years old and that his son, whose name was Skip, is approximately twenty-two. He further indicated that he hires them both from time to time on a contractual basis, that they live in Boulder at 1001 Butte Avenue, and that their phone number was 444-0966. He indicated that they had worked off and on for him for approximately three years, and that the only thing that he had seen them drive were two Datsun pick-ups.

At this time, Annie OAKES, who is with the office of investigative services, contacted the Department of Motor Vehicles in Denver for cars belonging to one Rudy CHALLANGER of Butte Street in Boulder and received the information that among other vehicles that Mr. Rudolph W. CHALLANGER and Viola CHALLANGER had, was a 1966 Ford four-door register in their name with ML4643 license plates, and further that the vehicle registration number was 6P71C193284.

At this time I made contact with Detective BURKHEIMER and Detective Sergeant Gordon BUCKNER of the Boulder County Sheriff's Department and they, at that time, went to the CHALLANGER residence at 5000 Butte Avenue in Boulder and attempted to make contact with the two suspects. The suspects at that time were gone, however they did note that in the yard was a white 1966 Ford four-door station wagon with ML4643 plates.

On 30 April 1975 I made arrangements through the Aspen Airways and Colorado State Patrol to transfer pictures from Boulder to Aspen. In the late afternoon of that same day, Detective BUCKNER and Detective EPP did make contact with the above described suspect, Rudolph CHALLANGER, and his son Skip, and they voluntarily were photographed and these photographs were transferred to the Colorado State Patrol in a sealed envelope which was then transferred to Aspen Airways in the same sealed envelope, which was then transferred to Aspen, Colorado, where the envelop was turned over to me, unopened. I then transported the photographs to the Police Department where they were reproduced from color to black and white photographs by Detective James RODGERS, and then were inserted into two six-man line-ups with similar characters.

At this time Ms. CRAWFORD was contacted at her temporary residence in Aspen, and she then came to the Police Department to observe the line-ups.

After observing each line-up for approximately five seconds, she immediately picked both suspects out of the line-ups and identified them as them as the men who had accosted her, threatened her, and removed her to Winter Park before she escaped.

At this time, based on the above information, it was determined that probable cause existed to arrest Rudolph and Skip CHALLANGER for violations of the Provisions of the Colorado Revised Statutes 1973, 18-3-301, specifically First Degree Kidnapping. At this time an affidavit and warrant was drawn up by me and presented to County Court Judge John Wendt, who, after due consideration, signed the warrant. Soon thereafter, I was in contact with Detective Sergeant BUCKNER in Boulder, advised him of the situation, and soon after that both suspects came to the Boulder County Sheriff's Department accompanied by their attorney to see what was going on and demand an explanation. At that time they were arrested. Later, after several complications, they were arraigned in the 14th Judicial District Court in Grand County, Colorado, and as of this date I have been advised by Assistant District Attorney Gregory F. LONG that charges of First Degree Kidnapping are being filed against both suspects.

STATUS/CLOSED
Garms/cch,els,nlf

WITNESSES:

✓ 1. David GARMS
Detective Sergeant
Aspen Police Department

✓ 2. James RODGERS
Detective
Aspen Police Department

✓ 3. Anne OAKES
Detective Assistant
Aspen Police Department

✓ 4. William HOGANSON
Hampton and Viana Street, Denver, Co.
433-2102

✓ 5. Ernie BRADSHAW
Superintendant with Grace Construction
Denver, Colorado
755-8272
Home phone: 427-0349
DOB: 2-7-20
150 Grace Place, Denver, Colorado

✓ 6. Galen MYERS
Manager of Topp's Unlimited, Inc.
4200 Kearney Street, Denver, Colo. 80216
399-2610

✓ 7. Detective BURKHEIMER
Boulder County Sheriff's Department

✓ 8. Detective Sergeant Gordon BUCKNER
Boulder County Sheriff's Department

✓ 9. Detective EPP
Boulder County Sheriff's Department

✓ 10. K. I. PETERSON, 1-26-55
AKA: Mrs. Joe E. SMITH (Will be married soon)
P.O. Box 194, Frazer, Colorado 80442
POB: Minneapolis, Minnesota
No phone.

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REPORTING OFFICER D. Garms D-S/1

DATE & TIME OF INCIDENT See Original

DATE & TIME OF REPORT 22 Jul 75

PLACE OF INCIDENT State of Colorado

The victim in theis case, Mary Elaine CRAWFORD, contacted the Office of Investigative Services and indicated that she would be staying at the below address in San Francisco and could be reached there if needed.

ADDRESS: 1723 Pine Street
San Francisco, California
Residence of Donald De Roma
415-771-7489

On 31 May 75 I was contacted by mail by the victim who indicated that she was now living at the below described address.

ADDRESS: X 1384 Falmouth Road
Centerville, Maryland 02632
617-775-1681

The above information was forwarded to the Grand County District Attorney's Office for their convenience.

During a follow-up investigation, Ms. K. Peterson, DOB: 1-26-55, a reservationist at High Country Inn, at P.O. Box 96, Winter Park, Co. phone: 726-5566, was contacted and indicated that on 21 Apr 75, she was working between eight and five thirty p.m. She further indicated that in the afternoon, at approximately three o'clock, a woman came charging into the lobby of the High Country Inn, which is a Best Western Hotel. She further indicated that this was a female subject who fit the description of the victim in this case and that "she came in shaking". Ms. PETERSON further indicates that the victim in this case indicated that she had "trouble in a car with some guys", and that she stayed there approximately twenty minutes. Further, that the victim also had spoken with the owner of the High Country Inn, Mr. LANG, and that she wanted to know how far it was to Vail. Ms. PETERSON further indicated that they offered her a place and she gracefully refused it and told them that she wanted to go on to Vail. She, after I asked, described the victim as being "terribly shaken" and having tears in her eyes and a very pale complexion when she came in. She further indicated that the victim still wasn't calmed down when she left.

NOTE: Anne OAKES was also a witness to the interview with K. PETERSON.

STATUS/CLOSED
Garms/nlf